

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

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### **TWO PRESCRIBED BURNS PLANNED** **SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST**

(SANTA FE, NM)—“We are looking at this change in weather and the snow received in the higher elevations of the Santa Fe National Forest as a good opportunity to safely burn piles of thinned material in the Santa Fe Watershed,” said Lawrence Garcia, Espanola Ranger District Fire Management Officer, “The planned burn area received 5 to 6 inches of snow this past weekend.” The snow received and cooler temperatures will minimize the chances for fire to creep or spot.

“The area around Gallina, NM also received 9-12 inches of snow which will aid in the burning of the piles within the Gallina Wildland Urban Interface project,” said Andrew Serrano, Coyote District Fire Management Officer.

#### **Espanola Ranger District**

- **Santa Fe Watershed Burn planned for March 14, 2006** – Fire crews plan to burn piles within a 72 acre area along the ridge top above Nichols and McClure reservoirs, east of the City of Santa Fe;
- Burning these piles along the ridge top will provide a buffer and a safety zone for future prescribed burning or in the case of a wildfire in the watershed;
- This week, crews plan to burn Tuesday through Thursday and will patrol Friday, Saturday and Sunday as a safety measure. Crews will use a probe-eye, a tool used to detect heat for monitoring the area and assuring that the fire is “dead out”. Next week, other units of piles will be burned, as weather and resources allow;
- Winds are expected out of the southwest and should carry smoke away from the city of Santa Fe. The smoke may be visible from the City of Santa Fe and surrounding areas;
- For more information on the progress and status of the burn, please call the Espanola Ranger District at (505) 753-7331.

#### **Coyote Ranger District**

- **Gallina Wildland Urban Interface Burn planned for March 15, 2006**--Fire Managers will begin burning piles of thinned material within a 400-acre area located 1-mile south of the community of Gallina off of State Highway 96. This area received 9-12 inches of snow this past weekend, which reduces risk of fire spreading or spotting.
- Smoke released from the burns may be visible from the communities of Ghost Ranch, Rio Chama Monastery, Abiquiu and possibly Chama and Espanola.

